World Alliance News Letter

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In Time of War, Prepare for Peace

The tremendous power of dynamic ideas is expressed in the saying, "the pen is mightier than the sword." Paradoxically, the power of ideas is frequently exemplified in war, the supreme example of force. As the present world war becomes intensified, as the duration of bitter conflict multiplies the strains upon popular morale, the importance of challenging ideas, of constructive plans for world organization, is likewise multiplied.

An increasing number of thoughtful people believe that the war of attrition cannot be won without a concrete, imaginative and progressive program for peace. Certainly a durable peace cannot be achieved without detailed planning. It is too complex to be improvised, precisely because it is constructive. Peace is much more than the absence of war: it is the *organization* of justice and security.

It is now, when ideas are becoming increasingly important weapons of total war, that the principles of a constructive peace should be promoted widely. It is now, when the results of international disorganization are so evident, that concrete plans should be worked out and grounded in a resolute public opinion. The real sanction for a better world is the enlightened determination of ordinary men and women everywhere.

Religious groups have a particularly important rôle to play in this work of peace planning, for unless the post-war organization is inspired and undergirded by the great humanitarian ideals of religion, it cannot endure. The decision of the Federal Council of Churches in December to set up a broadly representative Commission for a Study of the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace is a welcome step. Similar steps should be taken by local churches in cities and hamlets across the country.

Inter-Faith Committee

Leading Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergymen have joined in forming an Inter-Faith Committee for Aid to the Democracies. The committee was established by sixty religious leaders in New York on December 23. Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, President of Union Theological Seminary, was elected chairman and Dr. Henry A. Atkinson was elected secretary.

The committee is organizing a membership of 1,000 religious leaders across the country to help secure "the fullest aid to all democratic peoples." The committee's initial statement called for further aid to Britain. The declaration, issued on December 28, said:

> We, the undersigned, speaking both as churchmen and as citizens, call the attention of our fellow-Americans to the gravity of the present situation. It is the acknowledged policy of our country, approved by the vast majority of its citizens, that Great Britain, the outstanding representative of free institutions in Europe, must not be allowed to fall. On behalf of all democratic peoples she is fighting for the ideals of our civilization in which Christians, Jews, and all other men and women of religious faith are concerned. Her people are standing up under appalling assaults on their cities and shipping with steadfast courage. But courage alone will not suffice; they must be supplied with planes and ships, with munitions and food.
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> We, therefore, urge that such supplies be freely given or lent her by our country. If we recognize that she is fighting for freedom against tyranny, it is shameful to drive bargains with her for the necessary weapons to continue the struggle. She is paying in the lives of her brave aviators and seamen, and of her no less brave civilian population, her women and children.
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> Further, we urge that the President call a conference of the representatives of all democratic peoples (both those whose lands have been invaded and those still independent) to counsel together for the defense of our liberties and to set forth our common purpose to achieve a world in which free men can live.

The Churches in a Time of War

The Federal Council of Churches at its biennial meeting held in Atlantic City, December 10 to 13, considered at length the task of the churches in a time of war. A statement prepared by John Foster Dulles and others was considered, amended and adopted. The statement, entitled "The American Churches and the International Situation," centered particularly upon the problem of maintaining spiritual unity in the face of war-time divisions. It urged churchmen to abstain from hatred of our fellowmen, from self-righteousness and from any tendency to identify God and the State. It urged seven practical tasks upon Christian groups. These may be summarized briefly as follows:

1. To develop and strengthen the ecumenical movement.
2. To continue the great task of evangelization throughout the world.
3. To participate generously in works of mercy and relief in the face of unprecedented human needs caused by war.

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4. To keep our minds free, in public and private worship, of the passions engendered by war.

5. To exemplify the social and economic principles which we assert to be indispensable to a better world order.

6. To prepare Christian people for fair and objective dealing with all international situations.

7. To proclaim boldly the truth as revealed to us by Christ.

Five Conditions of a New Order

Totalitarian propaganda has made much of the term "a new order." It has become a convenient generalization to cover and conceal the more concrete and brutal aims of conquest. Over against all such grossly materialistic conceptions of a new order Pope Pius XII has placed the ideal of a genuine new order based on principles of justice, equity and honor. In his Christmas Eve address the Pope gave these five "indispensable prerequisites for a search for a new order":

1. Triumph over hate, which is today a cause of division among peoples: renunciation therefore of the systems and practices from which hate constantly receives added nourishment.

2. Triumph over mistrust, which bears down as a depressing weight on international law and renders impossible the realization of any sincere agreement.

3. Triumph over the distressing principles that utility is a basis of law and right and that might makes right: a principle which makes all international relations labile (prone to err).

4. Triumph over those germs of conflict which consist in two-sided differences in the field of world economy; hence progressive action, balanced by corresponding degress, to arrive at arrangements which would give to every State the medium necessary for insuring the proper standard of living for its own citizens of every rank.

5. Triumph over the spirit of cold egoism which, fearless in its might, easily leads to violation not only of the honor and sovereignty of States but the righteous, wholesome and disciplined liberty of citizens as well.

Five Standards for Statesmen

Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders in Britian have put forward joint proposals for the consideration of statesmen after the war to insure real and lasting peace. The statement is linked with the five conditions of peace offered last Christmas Eve by Pope Pius (see *News Letter* for January 1940). The proposals were issued on December 21 and signed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, and Walter H. Armstrong, moderator of the Free Church Federal Council. The five standards are:

1. Extreme inequality of wealth should be abolished.

2. Every child, regardless of race or class, should have equal opportunities for education suitable to its peculiar capacities.

3. The family as a social unit must be safeguarded.

4. The sense of a divine vocation must be restored to man's daily work.

5. The resources of the earth should be used as God's gift to the whole human race and used with due consideration for the needs of present and future generations.

European War Relief

Since the publication of the Supplement to the December *News Letter on European War Relief Policies* information has been received from four additional organizations working in this field:

American Friends of Czechoslovakia

Wm. Jay Schieffelin, Chairman *8 West 40th Street, New York*

Since it became impossible to send relief in any form into Czechoslovakia under Nazi occupation, the American Friends of Czechosolvakia first raised funds for medical equipment and supplies for the Czechoslovak army fighting in France. From the collapse of France, their Czechoslovak War Relief fund has been used for the relief of the thousands of Czech citizens who are refugees in southern France, the French colonies and Portugal, where they have American representatives on the spot. Assistance takes the forms of a minimum food allowance, securing opportunities to emigrate, visas, and partial transportation. The organization cooperates closely with the Czechoslovak National Council, Chicago, and the Unitarian Service Committee, with which it has joint representatives abroad.

Near East Foundation

Cleveland E. Dodge, President *18 West 46th Street, New York*

This organization, which works with the neglected rural people of Bible lands, has placed its personnel and equipment in Greece at the service of the Greek government. Centers are being opened for the making of bandages, hospital supplies and warm clothing for needy children and refugees.

Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Dr. John R. Voris, Executive Director
1 Madison Avenue, New York

This organization is the American member of the Save the Children International Union at Geneva, Switzerland. War-time service in behalf of the children in Great Britain is administered through the Federation's sister organization in England.

General child relief includes three shelter homes in London suburbs. The organization also has a plan for handling "adoptions" or godparent care to individual children at a cost of $30 a year. Individual assistance is now being given to 4,000 children in England.

Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.

Countess Alexandra L. Tolstoy, President
287 Fourth Avenue, New York

This agency, founded a year and a half ago for Russian welfare and culture, is working for the relief of Russian refugees in Europe and in the United States.

Inter-American Cooperation

Mr. Jesse H. Jones, Secretary of Commerce, announced on December 11 a 60 million dollar loan from the Export-Import Bank to Argentina (following a 50 million dollar loan from the Currency Stabilization Fund the week before) and a 7½ million dollar loan to Uruguay. Even though these steps do not go far to solve the serious economic problems of Latin America, they do begin to translate vague ideals of inter-American cooperation into tangible reality.

The need for such tangible steps is equally great in the cultural realm. To help meet this need, the *News Letter* is preparing a supplement on organizations and programs in this field for the aid of local religious groups. The supplement, originally planned for January, will be issued with the March *News Letter,* as part of the preparation for Pan American Day, April 14.

PEACE PROJECTS

We wish to thank our readers who have filled out and returned the interesting and helpful "Peace Projects Reports" that have arrived since the December mailing. May we urge those who have not sent in the cards to do so, or if they have been mislaid, to write to this office concerning successful projects of which other religious groups should know. The following reports illustrate the type of information that is valuable:

A Haven for the Homeless

A group of churches, the Southern Cayuga Larger Parish, has sponsored a refugee project in Poplar Ridge, New York. The project grew out of a study group on the Madras Conference and is in charge of an active refugee committee. A German refugee family has been located in the area, aided with rent, fuel and a Christmas shower of food and supplies. The group is trying to help find outlets for the weaving done by the family. The project is giving friendship and hope to this family, and they in turn are adding much to the life of the community.

A Supper for China

The People's Methodist Church of Bradford, Massachusetts, secured through the Chinese Consulate in Boston, the author, Dr. Tehyi Hsieh, to speak before a church supper on Wang Ching Wei, the new "puppet leader of China." After his enlightening speech, an offering was taken on behalf of orphan children in China.

Gifts of the Magi

One of the interesting projects of the East Main Street Congregational Church of Galesburg, Illinois, was conducted by the Sunday School. Offerings for war relief were made for two Sundays preceding Christmas. A member of each class, dressed in oriental costume, brought the offering to Joseph, Mary and the Babe, at the close of the Christmas program. The processional, as a trio sang "We Three Kings of Orient Are," was impressive.

International Sunday

International Sunday is an annual event in the Wyoming Community Church, Maplewood, New Jersey. Students are invited from International House of New York for the Sunday Service, for dinner with their hosts, and for a reception in the afternoon with the young people of the church. Acquaintance with these students from many lands (there were 12 this year) has helped the local young people to find a deeper appreciation of the situation in war-torn countries.

Refugees in New Hampshire

The whole community of Durham, New Hampshire, was organized on behalf of a refugee project under the leadership of the Community Church. Volunteers made a house-to-house canvass. As a result a family of refugees has been settled there, the first (of today's refugees) in the Granite State. The project is helping to promote a splendid community spirit.

Unity through Discussion

The young people, aged 20 to 35, of the People's Congregational Church, Jupiter, Florida, meet in a fortnightly discussion group, called the "Wranglers." Discussion on "Minorities in America," "To What Extent Should We Aid Britain?" and so on, have presented wide differences of opinion without personal antagonisms. The group has aroused the interest of older people and should open the way for better community cooperation and unity.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Since 1920 the Faith and Order Movement has kept a week every year as a special time of prayer for the unity of the church and the work of the Movement. This year the week of prayer will be held January 18 to 25, with particular prayers for the establishment of righteousness and peace throughout the world, for the guidance of the work of the Movement's commissions, for freedom from hatred and bitterness and for greater loyalty to Christ.

Christian Endeavor Week

The first Christian Endeavor Society was organized in Portland, Maine, February 2, 1881. This year, therefore, the youth movement is celebrating its 60th anniversary the week of January 26 to February 2. The program includes a Denominational Day, a Day of Evaluation, three days for Decision, a day for Fellowship, and Christian Endeavor Day. For materials and suggestions, write the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 41 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston.

Brotherhood Month

February is International Brotherhood Month. For material on this month, and for Race Relations Sunday, February 9, write to the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York. For information concerning

Brotherhood Week, February 22 to 28, write to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York.

SUGGESTED READING

The Local Church and Men of Draft Age, by Richard M. Fagley. This office. Single copy free.

Suggestions for helping conscientious objectors, men in the army and men expecting to be called. Reprinted from the January issue of the *International Journal of Religious Education.*

The American Churches and the International Situation. Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York. Single copy 5 cents.

The earnest and thought-provoking statement adopted at the biennial meeting of the Federal Council of Churches, December 10-13.

American Foreign Policy

U. S. Aid to Britain. *Foreign Policy Report* by J. F. Green, D. H. Popper and J. C. deWilde. Foreign Policy Association, 22 East 38th Street, New York. 25 cents.

A valuable factual answer to four questions: What have we supplied? What else does Britain need? What more can we provide? What risks and difficulties are involved? Useful material for study groups considering the problem.

It Must Be Done Again, by Vernon Nash. Federal Union, Inc., 10 East 40th Street, New York. 15 cents.

Mr. Nash presents in abridged and edited form John Fiske's *Critical Period of American History.* He argues in a stimulating way that the union created by the thirteen American states points the way for the nations now.

The Defense of the United States. Edited by John A. Krout, Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science, Columbia University, New York. $2.50.

A series of papers by American experts and business men on problems of the armed forces, utilization of productive energies, and foreign policy. Useful compilation for defense study groups.

Caribbean Danger Zone, by J. Fred Rippy. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. $3.00.

A careful history of U. S. diplomacy in the Caribbean area. It shows the economic, political and strategic background of that policy.

Report on England, by Ralph Ingersoll. Simon & Schuster, New York. $1.50.

An account of a flying visit to England in November, published originally in the issues of the newspaper *PM.* Perhaps the most interesting part of the book describes Mr. Ingersoll's belief that the Germans missed their chance to conquer England by air when they halted the vast attack of September 7-15.

American Domestic Policy

Foot Prints of the Trojan Horse. Citizenship Educational Service, Inc., 122 East 42nd Street, New York. Single copy 25 cents: less in quantity.

Foot Prints of the Trojan Horse is a primer on un-Americanism which reveals simply and graphically some of the methods used by foreign agents in the United States. It has met with approval by many leaders in public life. Many groups have purchased copies and are making them available to a larger public.

Democracy and Social Change, by Harry F. Ward. Modern Age Books, New York. $2.50.

Dr. Ward analyzes democracy in terms of economic forces and class struggle. He believes that a fundamental social change is necessary, that socialism alone can save genuine democracy. His book for America is comparable to Harold Laski's *Where Do We Go From Here* for Britain.

Religion and Youth

Youth — Religion — Democracy, by Frank Kingdon and Benson Y. Landis. National Conference of Christians and Jews, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York. Single copy 25 cents.

An excellent manual for youth round tables on problems of building better social relationships, particularly within the local community. It is a practical handbook for young people's meetings.

Social Action — Why and How, by Josiah Bartlett. The Young People's Religious Union, 25 Beacon Street, Boston. 5 cents.

A good, practical introduction to social action for religious youth, written primarily for Unitarian young people.

New Magazines

Defense Papers. 60 East 42nd Street, New York. 15c per copy, $1.00 for 8 issues.

The American Association for Adult Education is now publishing a magazine on different problems of national defense. The first issue appeared in December. The articles provide factual information, questions for discussion and suggestions for further reading to enable American citizens to make sound judgments on defense issues.

Christianity in Crisis. 601 West 120th Street, New York. $1.00 per year.

An 8-page bi-weekly paper has been announced by Reinhold Niebuhr, Chairman of the Editorial Board. The purpose of the new religious journal is to discuss the responsibility of Christianity in the present world situation. Each number will contain a basic article by an outstanding authority on theological or political issues. The sponsors hold "that the halting of totalitarian aggression is prerequisite to world peace and order." The first issue is to appear in February.

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